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MAKE A BEIJING BAND **P.3**

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FOOD HOLD YOUR NOSE! IT'S CHINA'S
STINKIEST FOODS **P.8**

今日北京

BEIJING TODAY

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ART OF SILENCE

THE MAGICAL HEROES OF JOURNEY TO THE WEST INSPIRE DEAF
ARTIST CHEN JIANZHOU. UNDER HIS BRUSH, THE TANG MONK AND
HIS DISCIPLES COME ALIVE WITH VIVID EXPRESSIONS AND
IN SURPRISINGLY MODERN SURROUNDINGS. **P.4**



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BEIJING YOUTH DAILY

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ENTERTAINMENT

Some Stories are Better Left to Memory

BY DIAO DIAO



Photos by douban.com

China has no shortage of novels waiting for a turn at film – especially youth-themed ones. *The Left Ear* by Rao Xueman was a high school favorite of young adults born in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

But some stories are such products of their time and place that they endure better as memories. For fans who grew up with Rao's work, seeing the recent film adaptation of *The Left Ear* was like watching a steamroller crush their childhoods.

The innocent and beautiful Li Er is deaf in her left ear. In spite of her disability, she is a warm girl who always wears a sweet smile. One day she meets a girl named Bala who couldn't be any more different. In Bala, she discovers her longing for a life of rebellion.

Li loses her favorite boy Xu Yi to her outgoing competitor, but Bala's true love is the cool and handsome Zhang Yang. Their complicated stories are twisted by an equally complicated relationship between their parents.

The characters come to a tragic end after experiencing both cruelty and love. It's the opposite of what many in China expect – that youth should be the best and brightest period in life.

While such complicated love stories were all the rage a decade ago, today they come off as stale. That debut director Su Youpeng shot *The Left Ear* to look like a TVB series from the 1990s did little to help

that impression.

But even without that stumble, Su faced an impossible task: to make a dated story seem better than when it was first written.

Su was a member of the band Little Tiger in the 1980s and later went into acting. Fans of the book said they had high hopes for his work, and that older and more experienced directors "can't understand the life and feelings of their generation."

If one looks deep between the incoherent cuts they can spot *The Left Ear's* core, a sad cliché about "the truth of love" that had its heyday in 2000.

Nevertheless, the *The Left Ear* took in 31 million yuan during its first week at the box office – more than the *Fast and Furious 7* earned in 17 days.

In spite of those impressive numbers, fan response has been pure vitriol. The most cynical writers on Douban attributed the film's box office take entirely to a cult of personality surrounding its new actors and actresses.

Beyond the film, Rao is still one of China's most popular authors of young adult fiction. She began writing and publishing at the age of 14 and has published more than 50 novels during her 27-year-long career.

Uniform Skirt, *Li Ge*, *Hourglass* and *The Left Ear* remain her most popular. ■

'Skin' a Story Collection for the Homesick

BY DIAO DIAO

Cai Chongda's *Skin*, published last December, is a prose collection of short stories. In the five months since, the stunning book has resonated with readers who were forced to leave home and work far away.

Born in Minnan, Fujian province in 1982, Cai has a deep interest in the stories of his hometown and family.

He started working outside Minnan at a young age and became the editor of *Modern Weekly's* news section at the age of 24. Three years later he became the youngest director - reporter at GQ. Writer and racer Han Han praised Cai as a "master of writing."

The book talks about missing one's parents, hometown and friends and puts the reader in the role of the main character.

Of more than 14 stories in the book, "Skin," "House of Mum" and "Disabled" are the most touching.

In "Skin," a 99-year-old woman who never went to school teaches the reader many truths about life such as "flesh is for use, not for joy."

In "House of Mum," a mother wants to build a four-floor house but fears the complex construction would make her family stand out in the neighborhood. All she wants is a place

called home where she can stay forever. Her thoughts reflect those of many older people as she works part-time jobs and collects discarded vegetables from the roadside.

The book can be roughly divided into three parts: ailing family members, friends and an analysis of the writer and his world.

Although produced by Han Han, many fans of the writer said the last quarter of the book left them feeling unsatisfied. It's obvious that the latter part was not finished in the same period of time, and its depth and emotion is comparatively shallow. ■



MUSIC



Summer Warz The Three Questions that Make a Band



Photos by Summer Warz

BY DIAO DIAO

“Do you have a guitar? Do you have pedals? Can you play with us?” Those were the three magic questions that created the local rock and funk band Summer Warz.

When Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications put out the word that it was seeking talent for its gala, one enterprising student made a call to his friend, the singer Xu Feihong.

Xu promised a kick-ass performance – never mind that he didn’t have a band.

After roping Zhang Guangyi into playing rhythm guitar and recruiting bass player Zhipen, the three began their search for a lead guitarist. They settled on Zhang Tianyi, a sophomore student and friend of Xu’s girlfriend, Fang Dan – also their keyboardist.

In spite of their rushed formation, Summer Warz’s first performance was a smash hit and the five decided to

make their music a more permanent endeavor by bringing on Fu Haixin as their drummer.

Xu says the band’s success to date has been surreal – especially since he’s dreamed to found a band since middle school.

Xu got into music for all the right reasons. “I thought the girls would like me if they saw me singing,” he says. He and Zhang Guangyi were classmates, and Xu was always interested in the young guitar lover’s skillful strumming. By the time he was in high school he had discovered rock.

“My brother gave me an album by Mr. Big. I listened and thought it was really different from what I imagined. Later on, one of my classmates gave me a pair of shoes with the AC/DC logo. I looked up the band online and was amazed,” Xu says.

But in spite of his early love of guitar, Zhang’s life took another path.

Today Zhang works as a financial analyst. Although his parents forced him to study guitar and piano through his childhood, they never saw a future for him in music. He was forced to turn down an offer from the Berklee

College of Music.

“My parents didn’t want me to live on music,” Zhuang says. “I was disappointed at first that I lost the chance to study at such a famous school. But now that I’m working, I can see that they were right.”

Zhang says that being forced to earn a living through the band alone would destroy their music. “The most attractive thing about being in the band is the relaxed atmosphere we all share,” he says.

Nevertheless, there are serious challenges in the band’s future. “Beijing has so many excellent indie bands, and their shows are awesome. I think our music is really good, but it’s hard for one band to really stand out when the audience has so many options,” Zhang says. “The listeners only have so much space in their hearts.”

Zhang Tianyi plays in two other bands and says member changes are the biggest problem. “There have been 15 people who passed through those two bands. I feel upset every time one has to quit, but every change brings something new to the music. I think they are getting better.”

Most of Summer Warz’s members have already graduated, and that means they face the same problems as most local indie bands: when they have time to play music, they have no money; when they have money, they have no time for music.

Summer Warz has at least enjoyed a little financial support thanks to a 10,000 yuan prize purse at a recent competition.

The members say their favorite song is the moving “Meng Xing Shi Fen,” which has even made their audience weep on occasion. The band hopes to have an EP out later this year and is preparing for their summer tour of Beijing’s open-air music festivals and bar circuit. ■

☞ site.douban.com/Summer_warz/

LIVE SHOW ROUNDUP

Beijing boasts one of the world’s most vibrant indie music scenes. Support our local artists with a trip to one of this week’s live performances!

Tong Yan @ Mako Live

Tong Yan is a 1980s girl born in Liaoning province. After studying Japanese at a Dalian college, Tong decided to come to Beijing to try for a position at Taihe Maitian, a famous music company. She moved to Xiamen, Fujian province in 2009, where she discovered her enthusiasm for music and started playing professionally.

☉ May 10, 8:30-10:30 pm

📍 36 Guangqu Lu, Chaoyang

💎 60 yuan (pre sale), 80 yuan (at door)

Jasmine Chen Beijing Debut @ DDC Club

Jasmine Chen is a jazz singer known all over the world. *The Guardian* describes Chen as “a soft and sensuous sounding Chinese chanteuse.” She graduated from Leeds College of Music with a degree in classical piano and went on to study jazz with Louise Gibbs and Tina May. Chen is known for blending Chinese elements with jazz and has found a following in both Asia and Europe.

☉ May 9, 3-5 pm

📍 14 Shanlao Hutong, Dongcheng

💎 50.5 yuan (pre sale), 60 yuan (at door)

Lilith China Tour @ Mao Live House

Lilith is a Shanghai indie rock band founded in 2010. They released their first EP, *Over the World*, in 2013. Lilith sings in Chinese, English and Japanese and combines different style in its music.

☉ May 10, 7-10:30 pm

📍 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng

💎 100 yuan (pre sale), 120 yuan (at door)



Hua Zhou @ Mako Live

Folk musician Hua Zhou is releasing her first album in Beijing. The singer used to be very outgoing and covered in big smiles, but these days she seems more reserved. Hua quit her school in Urumqi and came to Beijing to study music. She is preparing for a national tour to promote the album.

☉ May 9, 8:30-10:30 pm

📍 36 Guangqu Lu, Chaoyang

💎 70 yuan (pre sale), 90 yuan (at door)



ARTISTS



Wukong Catches a Cold



The Last Supper

A Happy Art Journey to the Ends of the World



Fighters Tame the Ghost



Travel to the Dinosaur Age



Monkey King and His Peach



Where Are You Going, Journey to The West?

BY WANG LINGXIAO

As one of the country's four great literary classics, *Journey to the West* and its magical characters are a cornerstone of Chinese childhood. Under the brush of 28-year-old artist Chen Jianzhou, the Tang monk and his three disciples come alive with vivid expressions and in surprisingly modern surroundings.

Chen was born in Shandong province and grew up in a family of artists. He moved to Beijing in the early 2000s. He began his *Journey to the West* series in 2014 and has already finished 22 paintings.

"The TV adaptation filmed in 1986 is still my favorite show. I've watched it a dozen times," Chen says. "It's hard to say why, but I just love it."

His work may be inspired in part by Gu Baoxin, a Chinese artist who adapted the imagery of *Journey to the West* to comment on China's cooperation with the US. "But I think his work is just too fierce and scary. It might make foreigners really misunderstand this classic," Chen says.

Chen's paintings are dominated by bright colors that stand out from his black skies, blue clouds and green mountains.

As a young man, Chen studied realist oil painting with Geng Wanyi. When Geng instructed him to practice copying famous paintings he ran like mad to get away from the style. "I don't want to follow the traditional approach to oil painting. I'm looking to do something more creative that's inspired by my dreams," Chen says.

His contrasting colors, modern elements and pleasant images reflect his humorous nature and have been easy for viewers to accept.

In "Where are You Going, Journey to the West?" the four pilgrims are depicted in modern clothes and waiting at a bus stop. The scene was inspired by the time he saw three people attempting to board a Beijing bus with clearly oversized luggage.

"Inspiration comes from life. I love to focus on the simple things," he says.

His "The Last Supper" mimics Leonardo da Vinci's famous work and indicates his own understanding of the four characters. The monkey king, the pig and the Sha Wujing are all seen eating their favorite foods: a peach, a watermelon and a piece of tofu. The Tang monk sits before an empty bowl.

"I always saw the Tang monk as stubborn and

selfish. When he is hungry and thirsty he asks his disciples to find food and water for him. When he meets any monster, he needs his disciples to protect him. On the contrary, I think Zhu Bajie (the pig) is cuter even though he is somewhat greedy and lecherous," Chen says.

All of his works seem to reflect his natural humor and optimism. For many viewers it's hard to imagine that Chen lives in a silent world.

A severe fever rendered Chen deaf at the age of three. His disability troubled him early in his life, but in time he learned to harness the silence to isolate himself and concentrate on his work.

"I let bad things go as quickly as they come. I know it's no good for myself or my friends to stay negative for too long," Chen says.

As a *beipiao*, or young migrant to the capital, Chen's parents place much hope in their son's work. His father lost his job when he was in junior high school, and Chen hoped to move back to Shandong after graduation to support his family. His father encouraged him to stay in Beijing and pursue his dreams.

His exhibition in Chongqing last year marked a new start for him. Since then, his paintings have been exhibited in China, Korea and France.

"The market for my works was weak in 2014, but it's much better this year," he says. "More people born in the 1970s and 1980s are starting to support the creative arts."

From one aspect, his creativity comes from his pursuit of freedom. He has worked as a UI designer, a teacher and a graphic designer since graduating from Beijing Union University in 2012. In 2013, he landed a job as the chief designer for a restaurant group, but the career left him without any free time.

His resignation inspired another series: *Fly and Desire*.

"My heart is free, but that freedom is limited in work. I was eager to get rid of the monotonous environment and just do what I like," Chen says.

He is currently working on his *Memory of Childhood* series, in which he himself is the model of the characters. He is hoping to turn it into a solo exhibition abroad.

"I want to complete 100 works by the end of 2017," Chen says. "Human potential is infinite: we just need the courage to break past our own limits." ■

(Wang Lingxiao is an intern at Beijing Today.)

A TRAVEL



Photo by mafengwo.cn



Photo by lvyou.baidu.com



CFP Photos

History in Beijing's Longest Hutong

BY SHU PENGQIAN

If visitors intend to saunter through a Beijing hutong, the quiet Dongjiaomin Xiang might be a good alternative to the noisy and touristy Nanluogu Xiang and Yandai Xiejie.

Dongjiaomin Xiang is the longest hutong of Old Beijing with a length stretching nearly 1.6 kilometers. It runs east to west in Dongcheng District, beginning from Tian'anmen Square and ending at Chongwenmen Avenue.

In the past, the alley was an embassy quarter used by the US, Japan, Germany, France and Belgium during the Qing Dynasty and early Republican Era. Other historical institutions such as the Yokohama Special Bank, Standard Chartered Bank and the International Club operated in the hutong.

Many of the former embassy sites and Western-style buildings remain, and visitors can read about the buildings' original use on nearby stone tablets.

Early History

During the Yuan dynasty (1271 - 1368), Dongjiaomin Xiang and its twin alley Xijiaomin Xiang, were one massive hutong known as Jiangmi Xiang. When the Ming Dynasty came to power, new city ordinances resulted in the alley being split into its current form.

In the early years of the Yuan Dynasty, Jiangmi Xiang was a street for buying and selling food. The city's customs officers and the department that oversaw grain shipments both maintained offices in the alley. Its key role in maintaining Beijing's food supply made Jiangmi Xiang an important strategic point for Yuan rulers.

That changed in 1421, when the Ming Dynasty moved China's capital from Nanjing to Beijing. Important government agencies such as the Ministry of Rites, the Court of State Ceremonies and the diplomatic department set up shop on the east side of Jiangmi Xiang.

During the Second Opium War (1856 - 1860), the imperial government was forced to sign the humiliating Tianjin Treaty with Russia, the US, France and the UK in 1858. The treaty granted the four countries the right to open embassies in Beijing, and the Eastern Jiangmi Xiang became a gathering place for foreigners.

Britain and France selected two mansions that originally belonged to aristocrats in the Qing royal family; the US selected a mansion whose owner was an American citizen; and the Russians put their embassy in a church.

As other countries entered China and set up embassies, the Eastern Jiangmi Xiang became their first choice.

After the failed Boxer Uprising (1899 - 1901), the Qing Dynasty government was forced to sign the Peace Protocol of 1901. Foreigners renamed the Eastern Jiangmi Xiang to "Legation Street." In Chinese it was known as Dongjiaomin Xiang.

The foreigners evicted most Qing officials from their offices in the alley: only the Ministry of Official Personnel Affairs, Ministry of Revenue, Ministry of Rites and Imperial Clan Court of the Qing Dynasty were to remain.

As embassies began to mushroom in Dongjiaomin Xiang, foreign companies and banks followed and opened branches in the area. France built public facilities such as a hospital and post office. The alley slowly took on a colonial air.

Even after the People's Republic of China was founded in 1949, Dongjiaomin Xiang continued to house many embassies. The government relocated the embassies to Sanlitun in 1959, and the alley's diplomatic chapter came to an end.

Today, most of the historical buildings are occupied by official agencies and many modern constructions are appearing in the hutong. Nevertheless, visitors can still see the silent hutong's history in the surviving Western-style buildings. ■

(Shu Pengqian is an intern at Beijing Today.)

Historic Spots in the Hutong

St. Michael's Church

A French priest founded this Catholic church in 1901 and completed it in 1904. It is a two-story Gothic building known for its exquisite angels. In front of the church's front door stands a statue of St. Michael, the guardian of Israel in the Old Testament.

➤ Jia 13, Dongjiaomin Xiang, Dongcheng

Former French Barracks

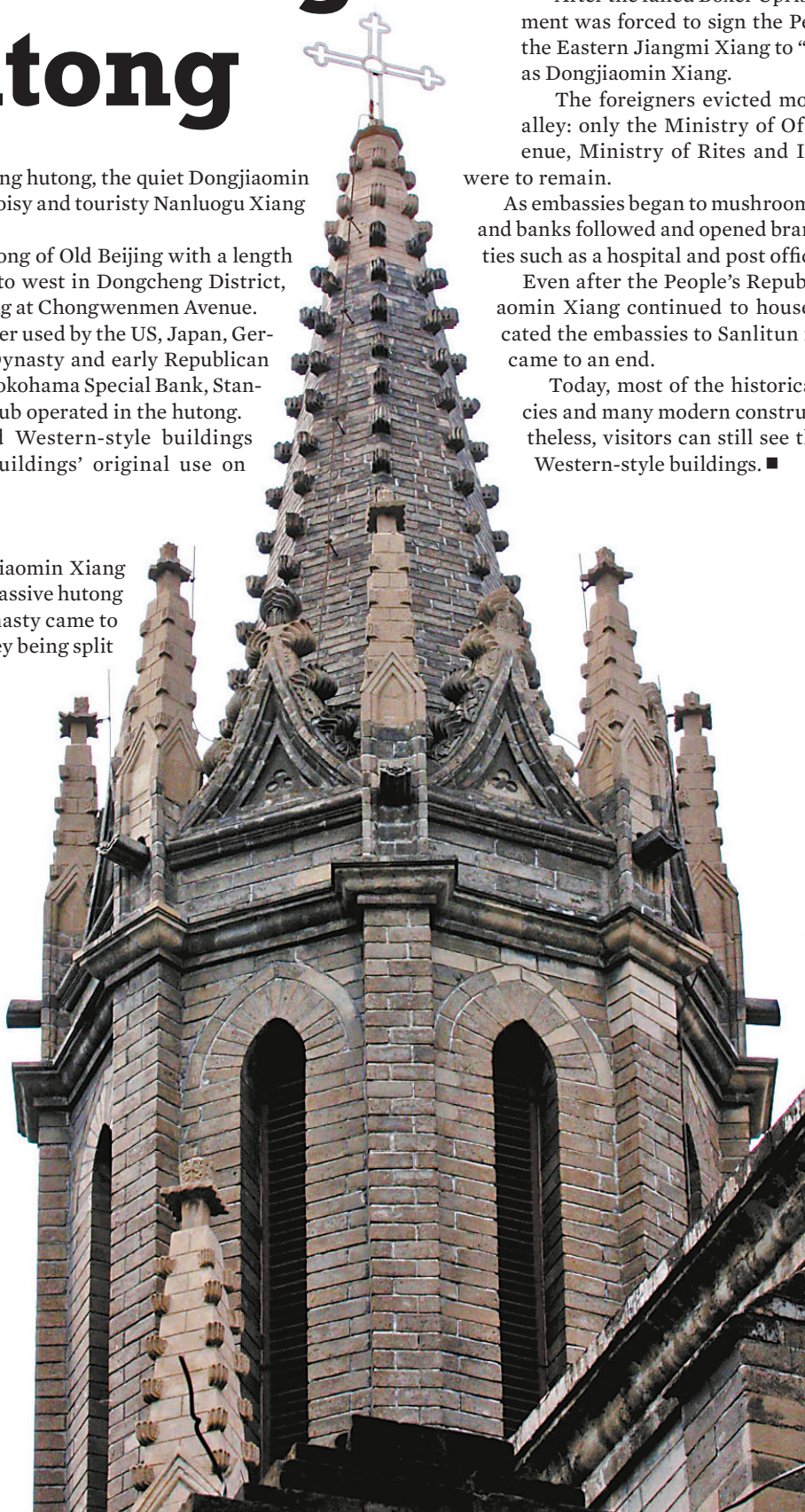
In 1901, France built a new barracks using the foundation of an abandoned house. The barracks were symmetrical, and the main buildings were two solid dormitories. Today it belongs to General Labor Union of Beijing Municipality.

➤ 3 Taijichang Santiao, Dongcheng (follow Taijichang Jie north)

Beijing Police Museum

The Beijing Police Museum is the first museum about police culture in Beijing. The museum is divided into four exhibition rooms. Visitors can learn about Beijing's police history, investigation technology, equipment and weapons. The building is on the site of the branch office used by Citibank during the Qing Dynasty.

➤ 36 Dongjiaomin Xiang, Dongcheng



ETCETERA

Appropriations

BY DIAO DIAO

Continuing the trend of Chinese netspeak terms that are borrowed in from other languages, this week we have another three words that don't entirely match up to their original meanings.

Orz

Orz

Orz, another Japanese borrowing, has less to do with letters than shape.

The combination looks something like a man kneeling down to kowtow, with the "O" as the head, the "r" as the arms and the "z" as the legs.

But today, "Orz" is less about admiration than showing your disbelief at the discovery of something truly ridiculous.



Hā

The character hā (哈) has long been used to represent laughter in Chinese text, but today it's finding new use as a verb.

Fans of Korean and Japanese drama series often say they hāhān (哈哈) or hārì (哈哈) to express their enthusiasm for the countries' culture. People also say "I don't hā ___" (我不哈___) to express their disinterest in a subject.



Kòng

Kòng (控) is borrowed from "kon," the Japanese abbreviation of the English "complex." As you might expect, it denotes a psychological fixation.

Creepy Lolita complexes aside, the character is most used in Chinese to describe an uncle complex, or dàshū kòng (大叔控). There's no shortage of single twenty-something women looking for a boyfriend who is 10 to 20 years their senior. ■



WEEKLY TANGO



TANGO

Tango studies at Tsinghua University's Academy of Art and Design. For more comics, follow his Sina Weibo feed at [tangocartoon](#).

Ask Beijing Today

"Ask Beijing Today" is our weekly column that attempts to make life in China less confusing. You can email your own questions to ask@beijingtoday.com.cn.

Q. Can you recommend any good places to play golf in town?

A. There are more than 20 good golf clubs in Beijing that offer outstanding facilities, pro shops, golf academies, terrace restaurants and gardens. Courses can be found in the districts of Changping and Chaoyang. There are also driving ranges in the CBD area and near Tiananmen Square. You can book a

game on teekart.com and go to the nearest course to play.

Q. What's a good salary for an English teacher in Beijing? Also, how much can I expect to pay in rent per month, assuming I'm sharing an apartment?

A. Teaching salaries seem to be in the 15,000-20,000 yuan range for teachers who possess both certificates and degrees. International schools may pay more.

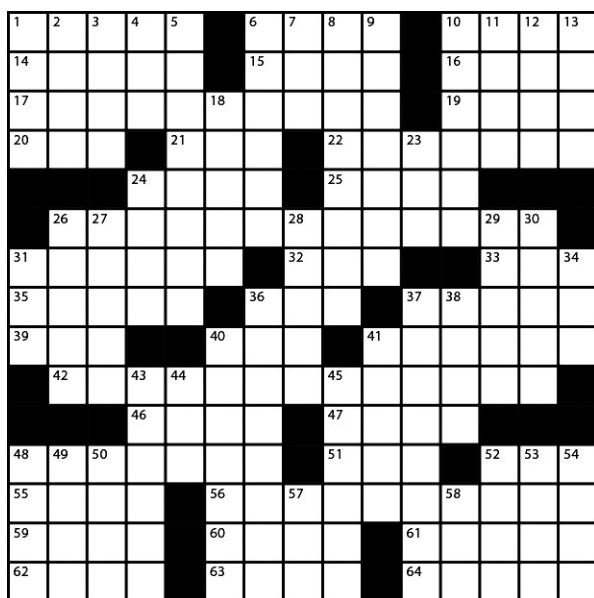
Of course, there are plenty of jobs that pay less and are less demanding in terms of qualifications. Housing can be 2,000 yuan per month or more. Beware of scammers out

to steal your passport, illegal schools and fake contracts. The ESL market is notorious for attracting criminals. Be safe out there, young Tim.

Q. Do you know where I can find a place to learn guzheng and how long will it take me to play well?

A. You can find instrument stores along Gulou Dong Dajie or Xijiekou Nan Lu. Most sellers offer a month of free classes when you buy your guzheng. As with any instrument, it will take years of practice to play well. The price of a guzheng usually starts from about 3,400 yuan. ■

THE BEIJING TODAY CROSSWORD



BY SU DERUI

Across

1. Old Venetian coin
6. In the sack

10. Blacken
14. Ascended
15. Mojito ingredient
16. Sainly glow
17. North American hare

19. Locale
20. Kind
21. Golfer's peg
22. Pestle, for one
24. Whirring sound
25. Called
26. Escape artist's challenge
31. Beckoning words
32. Kind of content delivery (abbr)
33. Pronoun
35. Lacking
36. Pool stick
37. Fire starters
39. Snare
40. Ancient operating system
41. Fruit
42. Measured in joules
46. Globes
47. Playbill listing
48. Something to reach
51. Nothing
52. Experienced
55. Mumbai princess
56. Urgent
59. Shakespeare's river

60. Time in office
61. Strongboxes
62. The one who journeyed west
63. Compound in pee
64. Smug look

Down

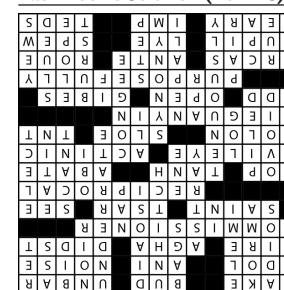
1. Famous fox spirit
2. Russian river
3. Fighting fowl
4. Invite
5. Of third rank
6. Einstein
7. Shirt protector
8. Resettle
9. Take away (from)
10. Alter
11. Merciless
12. Away from the wind
13. Howl
18. High nest
23. Squid squirt
24. Brought up
26. Mock
27. Greek consonant
28. Tilt
29. Fastening
30. Soaked
31. Travel stop
34. Exploit
36. Advertiser's target
37. Overstep
38. Toad feature
40. Shanghai's creamy candy
41. Broadcasting
43. Overly attentive
44. Vex
45. Skin condition
48. Backside
49. Volcanic flow
50. Poetic adverb
52. LP player
53. Swear
54. Office furniture
57. Opposite of post-
58. Tasseled hat

Send your completed crossword within two weeks to get our next two issues mailed out for free!

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Q CLASSIFIEDS

COMMUNITY



Sign Language Workshop for Parents and Professionals

This workshop will offer parents and educators an introduction to the benefits of using simple sign language to help children learn to communicate.

Key word sign has been proven to be an effective strategy for children who have a disability, are slow to learn how to speak, as well as bilingual children. In fact, research has shown that sign language can help all children understand and speak faster than children who don't use signs. The workshop will be hosted by speech pathologist Trish Hull. Participants will learn basic everyday signs and songs they can play for young children at home or in the classroom.

Hull is a speech pathologist from Australia who has also worked in Canada and England. She has 14 years of experience with young children, specializing in disability, education and early intervention. Hull is a Makaton sign language instructor and a certified Hanen therapist who runs her own private practice. Her specialty areas are developmental delays, autism, augmentative and alternative communication, and using PROMPT for speech disorders.

⌚ Noon - 1 pm, May 19

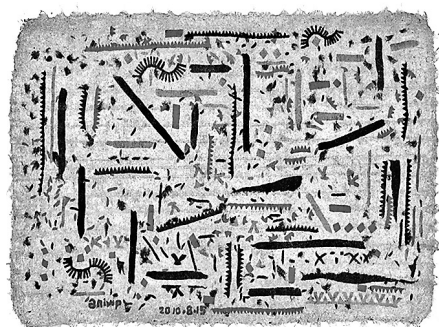
📍 Elliott's Corner Pediatric Therapy Centre, Unit 19-05, Building 2, Kandu International, 10 Dongsihuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang

💰 100 yuan

☎ (010) 6461 6283

✉ jac@oliviasplace.org

ART



Aniwar MAMAT: Sun, Water and Wind

Pekin Fine Arts is hosting Sun, Water and Wind, the gallery's first solo exhibit of artist Aniwar Mamat. Aniwar's oil-on-canvas and mixed-media paintings were most recently seen at the first Xinjiang International Art Biennale in 2014 in Urumqi and at Pekin Fine Arts' group exhibition Why Paint? Aniwar's wool felt tapestry works were also included in

the international group exhibit Decorum: Carpets and Tapestries By Artists. The current exhibit presents the artist's most recent exploration of traditional Uygur tapestry-making techniques.

Aniwar's reinterpretations of Uygur wool felt tapestries, which he made together with a Xinjiang craftsman, will premiere at Pekin Fine Arts together with his short documentary film. The film records a painstaking rolled-felt production process in a remote village in which the artist arranges strips of color across the soaked, pressed and rolled sheep wool. The film captures the stark divide between Xinjiang's city dwellers and rural villagers. What is also evident is the uncertain future of traditional handicrafts and skilled craftsmen against the market demand for mass-produced, machine-made goods.

Aniwar, a Beijinger with Uygur roots, has built a career on quietly challenging social-realist norms. In recent years, the artist has experimented with adapting traditional Uygur felt making to his vision of contemporary abstraction. Whether on felt or on canvas, the artist's works are consistently minimal, comprised of bright contrasting color bands.

⌚ 10 am - 6 pm, May 9

📍 Pekin Fine Arts, 241 Caochangdi, Cuigezhuang, Chaoyang

☎ (010) 5127 3220

✉ pekinfinearts.com



Chiharu Shiota's First Exhibition in China

Artist Chiharu Shiota, who has been selected to represent Japan at the 56th Venice Biennale in 2015, is exhibiting her work in China for the first time. Hadrien de Montferrand Gallery will feature 20 of her drawings and two large installations.

Famous for her performances and monumental installations, Shiota creates a world both poetic and violent, soft and melancholic, where she explores subjects such as memory and souvenirs, dreams, traces of the past and childhood. Born in Osaka in 1972, Shiota has lived and worked in Berlin since 1997. She studied at the Berlin University of Fine Arts, then at the Hamburg University of Fine Arts. In Hamburg, she worked at Rebecca Horn's studio and studied with Marina Abramovic in the 1990s.

Shiota's practice is largely influenced by avant-garde artists such as Louise Bourgeois, Eva Hesse, and Ana Mendieta, insofar as she both touches on the unconscious and on physical experimentation as well as through her choice of materials tradition-

ally linked to women such as textiles.

In 2014 she produced the sets for Kiel's opera *Tristan and Iseult* in Germany. Her Basel "Art Unlimited" installation garnered numerous reviews in 2013, and she conceived several site-specific installations at the Sucriere in Lyon in 2012 and at the Carre d'Art Saint Anne de Montpellier in 2013.

⌚ 11 am - 6 pm, May 9

📍 Hadrien de Montferrand Gallery, Qixing Dongjie, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, 798 Art District, Chaoyang (next to At Cafe)

☎ 13911651353

✉ hdemontferrand.com

STAGE



Stage Quorum Ballet Correr O Fado in Beijing

Throughout the world, when you mention Portugal, people think of two things: Fado and soccer. Although it takes many forms and is sung differently in Porto, Coimbra and Lisbon, Fado is the very expression of the Portuguese soul.

Fado means "fate" or "destiny" in Portuguese and embodies the soul and spirit of Portuguese people. It is one of the oldest styles of urban folk music, a mournful, melancholic style that became popular around the early 1800s in Lisbon. Fado is usually accompanied by guitar, though in these modern times, string quartets are beginning to appear on stage.

Correr O Fado brings Fado and modern dance together in a multitude of movements, sounds, sensations and feelings. Daniel Cardoso, the artistic director and choreographer, started his dance studies at age of nine with the Escola de Danca do Conservatório Nacional, where he received multi-disciplinary dance training and won a professional dancer's diploma. Daniel won full scholarships with the Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance and the Joffrey Ballet School in New York.

Quorum Ballet was founded by Cardoso, its artistic director, choreographer and dancer. It consists of six dancers, some of whom came from Ballet Gulbenkian in Portugal, the National Dance Company of Lisbon, the Martha Graham Dance Company in New York and the Peter Schaufuss Ballet in Denmark.

In 2009 it was awarded the prize for Best Contemporary Dance Company in Portugal. Currently, the Quorum ballet has scheduled a tour in China, Russia and the US. Quorum Ballet was considered a "six-star company" by the Danish press.

⌚ 7:30 - 9:30 pm, May 12

📍 National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA), 2 Chang'an Jie, Xicheng

💰 100 - 480 yuan

☎ 400 610 3721, (010) 1010 3721

✉ ponypiao@damai.cn

🌐 en.damai.cn/event/tickets_78489/

MUSIC



Belphegor and The Haunted: Extreme Feast 2015

Belphegor emerged in 1991 as one of the most extreme bands to ever come out of the death black metal scene. This demonic Austrian legion established their cult reputation with their first three excellent full-length releases.

Their highly acclaimed third release, *Necrodaemon Terrorsathan*, has shown what this band's music stands for. The album offered a fast and brutal attack, technical prowess and a brutal sound, neatly packaged as blasphemous art. But their breakthrough on the international metal scene came with their fourth album, *Lucifer Infestus*, produced under a new label, Napalm Records.

With their second release under Napalm Records, *Goatreich-Fleshcult*, the band managed to top all of their previous releases.

Swedish heavy metal machine The Haunted have been at the forefront of the global extreme metal scene since their very beginning, when core members of At the Gates decided to turn to a more thrash metal form.

The Haunted's eponymous debut record shocked the scene in 1998 and brought back faith and attention to thrash metal. The band has played an important part in having thrash be vigorously reinterpreted by countless new artists.

The 2004 *reVOLVEr* album opened a new, hungrier and more daring chapter of The Haunted's unlimited journey through the landscapes of extreme metal. Their impeccable way of combining classic 1980s metal influences (such as Metallica and Slayer) with an utterly modern delivery has made the band unique and essential. The 2006 album *The Dead Eye* showcased a more atmospheric side of the quintet, even though the overall heaviness and sound bite hadn't been sacrificed at all.

⌚ 8 - 10 pm, May 9

📍 Yugong Yishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng (100m west of Zhangzizhong Lu subway station)

💰 320 yuan (at the door); 260 yuan (presale)

☎ (010) 6404 2711

✉ info@yugongyishan.com

🌐 yoopay.cn/event/ygys20150509 pk-music.taobao.com



STINKY SNACKS

China is almost as famous for having delicious food as it is infamous for having strange food. A trip to any street market will reveal all kinds of strange and stinky creations. In Beijing, the strangest you will find – outside the skewered spiders and starfish – might be the local douzhi and the national favorite: stinky tofu. It takes a bit more sleuthing to find someone who is selling Mao tofu, a food whose odor is no less offensive than the other two.

China's Stinkiest Snacks

BY WANG YAN

Stinky Tofu

Tofu has always had a place on Chinese tables. It's estimated someone first churned bean juice into a curd more than 2,000 years ago.

Tofu researchers say the food's production began sometime during the Han dynasty (221–207 BC), and that it was introduced to Korea and Japan about 900 years later. There are several places in China that are known for making good stinky tofu, but the provinces of Hunan and Anhui are the most famous.

Stinky tofu from Hunan typically has a scorched, black skin, tender inside and crispy texture. It also has an overpowering odor that first time eaters describe as “unforgettable.”

Anhui's version of stinky tofu is believed to have been invented by a person named Wang Zhihe during the Qing Dynasty (1644–1912). Wang was born in Anhui and chose to remain in Beijing after failing the imperial exams. He began selling tofu to support his family.

After one day of particularly poor sales, Wang chopped up his unsold tofu and threw the cubes into an earthen jar. Several days later, he opened the jar and found the tofu had turned green and taken on a rancid odor. Wang did what any crazy person would do: he ate it.

Surprisingly, it was actually delicious. Wang began selling the stinky tofu in his store and soon won fans in the palace. It was recorded that even Emperor Kangxi and Empress Dowager Cixi enjoyed eating his stinky tofu. The dish is usually produced by fermenting tofu in a mix of milk and brine. For a truly powerful odor, the brine should be weeks or even a few months old. In reality, brine rarely sees more than a few days of use.



Douzhi



Mao tofu



Stinky tofu

Douzhi

It would be a shame to pass up on douzhi in any discussion of “smelly foods.” The fermented drink is a favorite of Old Beijing families.

Douzhi is believed to have been invented during the Song Dynasty (960–1279), but it was Emperor Qianlong of the Qing Dynasty who transformed it into a royal drink. Also



CFP Photos

known as mung bean milk, douzhi is made from the fluid remnants of mung bean noodles. The grayish-green juice has a sour taste and the familiar scent of old gym socks.

Locals usually suggest that first-timers drink douzhi with pickled vegetables. The vinegar can help your stomach to avoid rejecting the drink. Douzhi is very much understood to be an acquired taste, and it takes several bowls before most people can get it down without retching. If you manage to develop a taste for it, you will be rewarded with a great source of protein, vitamin C and dietary fiber.

Mao Tofu

Mao tofu is not as famous as stinky tofu, but you might have seen it if you followed the popular documentary series *A Bite of China*. Mao tofu is a traditional dish of Huangshan, Anhui province. It's named for the layer of white, furry mold that grows on the tofu during fermentation.

Mao tofu is one of the most distinctive dishes in Anhui cuisine and is also known as Huangshan Mao tofu or Huizhou Mao tofu. It can be served directly after frying or served with chili sauce.

It is said that Ming Emperor Zhu Yuanzhang once fled to Huizhou while he was young. At that time, he was defeated and left to starve. While wandering and looking for food he stumbled on a batch of partly rotten tofu and decided to eat it. To his surprise, he found the tofu tasted delicious. Later, when he took control of the country, he made the dish famous and popular. ■

(Wang Yan is an intern at Beijing Today.)

Maojia Stinky Tofu

BY WANG YAN

Whether you're a veteran eater of strange foods or a fan of stinky tofu, Maojia Stinky Tofu is a great place to start.

The chain has its origins in the central province of Hunan, but its stinky tofu has been toned down to be more acceptable to northern palates. Instead of being black skinned and “intolerable” to the nose, Maojia's stinky tofu is fried to a golden color and edible without being too repulsive. It's usually served with chili sauce and chopped scallions.

With bowls priced 5 yuan, Maojia's stinky tofu is very popular among customers. On Dianping, the chain's Di'anmen branch has 638 reviews and is rated 4.5 out of 5.

That's an impressive score for a street stall.

Opened in Beijing in 2006, the chain has four stall locations throughout the city. Most are located within Second Ring Road.

Zhao Yue, a staff member at the Di'anmen branch, said the store sells up to several hundred bowls of stinky tofu each day. Zhao said Maojia toned down its pungent odor when it received complaints from the neighborhood a few years ago.

The new recipe seems not to have affected food hunters' interest.

Zhao said most of the stall's customers are repeat visitors, and that they get a slow but steady stream of international patrons. ■



Photos by dianping.com

Maojia Stinky Tofu

1 Nanluogu Xiang, Dongcheng
18911788749

MAKE YOUR OWN WITH THIS RECIPE

Learn to Make Your Own Stinky Tofu

BY WANG YAN

Sometimes it's best not to think about China's food safety problems. Concerns over the cleanliness of street food can easily drive you crazy.

If you can't trust the street food vendors but still want to enjoy stinky tofu, this might be the perfect recipe for you. It is fun and easy to make.



Ingredients:

- ☐ 1 block of tofu
- ☐ 3 spoons stinky tofu milk (available in supermarkets)
- ☐ 20 ml strong baijiu
- ☐ red pepper powder
- ☐ cumin

The Steps:

1. Cut the tofu into blocks that are 2.5cm across and 1cm thick. Move them to a container.
2. Add 3 spoons of stinky tofu milk to a bowl with a little water and baijiu. Mix well.
3. Add the well-mixed stinky tofu milk to the tofu container. Seal with a lid and place the container in a shady location. Allow it to stand for 24 hours.
4. Add some oil to your wok and fry the fermented stinky tofu until the surface turns golden.
5. Season with red pepper powder and cumin.